

NEWS OF CONGRESS.

VISIT TO THE PRESS GALLERIES IN BOTH HOUSES.

How the Doings of the National Legislature Is Obtained for Newspaper Publication—Regulations Governing Admissions to the Galleries.

Quarters for Newspaper Men.

WHEN Congress is in session two of the busiest spots under the great white dome are the House and Senate press galleries. These galleries and adjoining rooms are the places provided for the use and convenience of the members of the corps of Washington correspondents in transacting their daily business at the Capitol. The only portions of the galleries visible to the public are the benches and desks set aside for the occupancy of the newspaper men, and in the House and Senate are located directly over the chair of the presiding officer. Back of these reservations are rooms to which the public does not have access.

In the House wing the newspaper men's quarters consist of three large rooms on the gallery floor, extending two-thirds of the length of the chamber of the House. The room nearest the elevator is occupied by telegraph operators, and the merry click of the instruments makes a lively din all day. The largest room of the suite is the general workshop of the men. A long table runs down the center, equipped with writing materials and flanking another telegraph office in the corner. The walls of this apartment are lined with paintings and crayons of distinguished newspaper men of the United States, the floor is comfortably carpeted, leather chairs and sofas invite the weary, and, with a crackling wood fire burning in the open fireplace, the room has a cheery and hospitable air. Little is heard in this place except the clatter of the telegraph instruments or the industrious scratch of pens on paper. Adjoining this chamber and separated by swinging doors, is the coat room, or, as it is sometimes called, "the gossip shop." There are racks and hooks for the topcoats and hats of the men, and a number of chairs before an open fire. When there is a temporary lull

of persons or corporations having legislation before Congress, and will not become either while retaining their places in the gallery. Visiting journalists, who may be allowed temporary admission to the gallery, must conform to the restrictions of this rule. The applications required by this rule must be authenticated in a manner that shall be satisfactory to the standing committee of correspondents, one of the duties of which is to see that the occupation of the gallery is confined to bona fide telegraphic correspondents of reputable standing in their business, who represent daily newspapers. Not exceeding one seat is assigned to each paper; and it is the duty of the standing committee, at its discretion, to report violations of the privileges of the gallery to the Speaker, and pending his action thereon the offending correspondent is suspended. Clerks in the executive departments of the Government, and persons engaged in other occupations whose chief attention is not given to newspaper correspondence, are not entitled to admission. The press list in the Congressional Directory is confined to telegraphic correspondents. Members of the families of correspondents are not entitled to admission. The gallery, subject to the approval of the



A FIELD DAY.

Speaker of the House of Representatives is under the control of the standing committee of correspondents.

At the beginning of the present session a new rule was added to the list. By its terms the clerks of Representatives and Senators are not entitled to admission to the galleries. This regulation was made necessary by the fact that within the past year a great many men have come to Washington, drawing a salary of \$100 a month as clerks of members of the House, and at the same time attempting to do newspaper work. It was immediately apparent that there was grave



THE HOUSE PRESS GALLERY.

In the proceedings, such as a roll call on an important question, this is a convenient retreat; but as a rule the correspondents are too busy to linger long, the legislative day for the gathering of news being short enough at best.

The press rooms in the Senate wing are similarly arranged and furnished except that one side of the outer chamber is occupied by the two associations that gather and disseminate the news of Congress.

The busiest hours in the two galleries are usually from 11:30 in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon. Within this period the representatives of the afternoon newspapers do the bulk of their work, writing and sending most of their news from the galleries after having obtained the same from interviews with members or out of the proceedings of the respective legislative bodies. The majority of the correspondents of morning newspapers merely make the galleries a base of operations from which they make expeditions into the various news fields around the Capitol, gathering their information and storing it away in mind or notebook to spend upon the wires



IN THE SENATE LOBBY.

at night in the privacy of their own offices.

Admission to the press galleries of Congress is regulated by strict rules formed partly by the correspondents themselves, partly by the requirements of the Congressmen, and receiving the indorsement of the Speaker of the House and the committee on rules of the Senate. The rules require that persons desiring admission to the press gallery shall make application to the Speaker, as required by rule of the House of Representatives, and shall also state, in writing, for what paper or papers they are employed, and shall further state that they are not engaged in the prosecution of claims pending before Congress or the departments, and will not become so engaged while allowed admission to the gallery, and that they are not in any sense the agents or representatives

danger of the next few years showing the presence of 350 clerks to members doing alleged newspaper work and holding rank with the legitimate corps of Washington correspondents. The danger to the public in such a condition would arise from the control of the Washington correspondence of the great newspapers of the country by men in the employ of Congressmen and subject to their fear and favor. As matters stand now, no man who draws a salary from the Government, either as the clerk of a Congressman, clerk of a committee or otherwise, can have his name borne on the roll of correspondents and entitled to admission to the press galleries. It is expected that one result of this reform will be to stimulate a spirit of independence and fearlessness among newspaper correspondents, and the public is sure to benefit by it in the end.

The corps of Washington correspondents is a representative body of writers, and includes men who reflect credit and honor upon the profession. They are gathered in from every section of the country, and in most cases hold high rank on the papers they represented before being sent to Washington to perform the important and responsible duties attaching to the work of a correspondent at the national capital. Some of them are veteran newspaper men, but the majority are men who have received the best part of their newspaper training within the last fifteen years. The moral standing of the Washington correspondents is high. Honesty is a prerequisite of their profession, courage and independence essentials, and a love of fair play and devotion to truth a marked characteristic. False statements about public matters or public men are never knowingly made without involving loss of reputation to the writer, although mistakes sometimes occur, when efforts are made to conceal legitimate news from them. In the nature of things, a newspaper would rather be right than wrong, and conservatism in the dissemination of news from Washington is a dominant factor.

There are unwritten rules of procedure among the correspondents which are religiously observed. It is not considered good form for a correspondent to write about the personal failings or infirmities of public men, and those who violate this code find themselves suddenly isolated and alone. It occasionally happens that a black sheep gets into the fold, and attempts by means that are more thrifty than honest to advance his material welfare, but he is soon discovered and cut off.

The Missouri-Iowa boundary dispute has been narrowed down to the question of ownership of a strip of land four miles long and 107 feet wide.

Four men held up a Baltimore and Ohio freight train, near Chillicothe, Ohio, Conductor John McGraw was shot and dangerously wounded.



FOR WOMEN AND HOME

A LITTLE wife the other day, with tears in her eyes, said: "I would give anything to have a certain allowance that I could call my own. When I get out of funds I would rather pawn my wedding jewelry than have to undergo the humiliation that follows asking John for any money. He grows over household expenses, yet wants all the delicacies of the season on the table. My dressmaking bills he sometimes flatly refuses to pay, saying they are exorbitant, yet if I appear in shabby clothes he scolds and asks cynically if I want to give the world the impression that he is on the verge of bankruptcy."

Such a husband ought to be ashamed of himself. He degrades himself, he lowers and humiliates his wife. Let him go seriously into the subject of his income, decide how it is to be partitioned off, hand the wife over her monthly allowance, and never discuss a bill or a butcher with her again. It is to her interest to do her best, and she is certain to do it, and life will be made brighter for both accordingly. Yes, let the wife have her allowance. Trust her, and she will never deceive; praise her when she does well, and she will always try to do better; but dole out the quarters to her grudgingly, and she will try to cheat you in the pennies, not from wickedness, but because her pride will not let her own to her dearest friend that she actually has not five cents to pay the bus fare! Trust is very seldom misplaced between husband and wife, while suspicion and prying on either side often end in serious trouble, and the less unpleasant subjects such as money are discussed the more likely the man and woman are to jog along merrily.

Such an expression as "impecunious wives" should never have been framed—such a position as a penniless wife should never have been created. It is the duty of every man to share his income with his wife, whether it be great or small, and it is equally the duty of every wife to do the most she possibly can with that income for the comfort and happiness of all about her. If she is treated lavishly in days of plenty she is all the more likely to save expense in days of impoverished incomes. The ups and downs of life come to us all, and that is why we should early realize the value of money and appreciate the necessity of setting aside that "something" for the rainy days, the mere knowledge of its possession giving happiness and peace of mind alike to husband and wife.

Money does not bring happiness, but it softens the road to much unpleasantness, and whatever an income may be, the only chance of peace of mind is to live and spend rigorously within its limits.

She Runs the Whole Town. Mrs. Maggie Connolly, of Whippany, N. J., whose feud with the Whippany Valley Railroad Company has made her notorious, has an unenviable reputation, and her neighbors tell queer tales about her. There is a dealer in horses living in the village who once made a trade with the widow's son, of which she, on reflection, disapproved. The aggressive exploits by which she endeavored to annul the bargain were the talk of the country side for many



MRS. MAGGIE CONNOLLY.

days, but they were of no avail. The widow went to law about it and testified volubly to her own behalf. When the horse dealer's lawyer, content in his client's innocence, closed the defense, and said "the defendant rests" everybody in the courtroom said it was the first time he had rested since he made the trade, and the jury gave him the verdict.

Mrs. Connolly weighs 180 pounds. She fears no living thing. When it comes to battle with a railroad that is only four miles long, a lady who holds the festive spirit of a whole township in awe can't reasonably be expected to yield her traditional privileges. The corporate rights of a railroad don't count in a hostile country. And if the company happens to employ but a dozen or so more men, as in this case, siege and pitched battle and occasional rout are but natural incidents of the situation. But Superintendent J. E. Melick, whose bitten wrist is now healing nicely, thinks the usual accidents of railroad life are enough to risk without dodging the amazonian battle ax of the lone widow of Whippany.

When the passengers board the train at Morristown they ask, the conductor what time he is due at Mrs. Connolly's south line. It is not much of a walk from the farm of the widow to the Whippany station. The engine whistles apprehensively when it reaches the adjacent hill, and is said to be acquiring the habit of stopping at the south line of its own accord. When accidents happen on the widow's land, as they have a few times, they are looked upon in the light of expected events. Mrs. Connolly says they are providential. She believes firmly, and so says every day, that the Lord fights for the lone widow by these extraordinary means. The officers of the railroad company do not agree to this. They say that the causes are in their belief of the earth.

Thomas Edison's Mother. The resemblance of the mother of the great inventor and the son is striking. He has her nose, eyes, and a head shaped like hers, but more highly developed. He may consider himself lucky to have them. She was a splendid woman and a woman of great strength. Mary Elliott was her name. She was a Massachusetts girl of Scotch descent. She taught school in Canada at one time, and she taught Edison all that



MRS. EDISON.

he ever knew. He once studied for eight weeks at a district school, but, excepting that, he never had any schooling save that his mother gave him. She had no other children, and devoted all her time to training the boy who has done so well. Unfortunately, she never lived to see a telephone or kinetoscope, or to know her son's greatness. She died in 1862, when he was 67 years old. She was no longer very young when Edison was born.—New York World.

Must Not Shave Women. A strange incident occurred in Bombay recently. A monster meeting of Hindu barbers was held for the purpose of considering the question of the propriety of shaving the heads of Hindu widows, and thereby disfiguring them for life. About 40 barbers having assembled, one of them, named Bahadur More, read a pamphlet in Marathi, in which he stated that the barbers of old were happy and contented, but latterly, as though a curse had descended on their heads, trade had fallen off and they had become poor. The curse could only be accounted for by the fact that they were committing a great sin in shaving the heads of poor, innocent widows, thus depriving them of their best ornament. It was against the Hindu Scriptures to deprive a widow of her hair, and doubtless it was the curse of the widows that had followed their calling. The meeting thereupon unanimously resolved that no barber should shave a widow's head, and that if he did he should be excommunicated.

Fancy Cuffs. The reign of plain and untrimmed cuffs is over. Some radical changes are being made. Becoming ones can be made very easily by cutting muslin strips of the desired width and edging them with cream lace on both sides. Then lay the muslin in triple box plait and fasten them in place about three-quarters of the distance with a little silk stitching, allowing the fullness to spring out between the plaits. These make very pretty finishings for any house dress, but should always be kept perfectly fresh. If made of good material the plaiting can be unfastened, the goods washed and plaited up again as good as new.

Capes of Big Sleeves. Some women who object so decidedly to having their sleeves crushed wearing a coat or jacket, and yet are cold in a cape, might apply the idea of the tight jacket waist of Persian lamb, with wing like sleeves of cloth or velvet trimmed with bands of the lamb. It makes a jaunty and attractive looking wrap, quite warm enough for ordinary wear in this climate.

War Reminiscences. The widow of Gen. Grant is at work on a volume of reminiscences which she is compiling from voluminous notes made during the civil war. Mrs. Grant accompanied her husband in his campaigns during that fateful period, and her book will be filled with the incidents of the time between Fort Donelson and Appomattox.

INDIANA INCIDENTS.

RECORD OF EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK.

Primary Teachers of Muncie Get Themselves in Hot Water—The Murder of Hester Curtis a Most Mysterious Affair.

Children Lose Faith in Santa. Prof. W. R. Snyder, Superintendent of Public Schools at Muncie, finds himself in the unenviable position of arbitrator of a peculiar trouble between the teachers and the parents of the school children. It is a custom for the various classes to hold Christmas exercises each year just before the holidays. This year, just after the exercises closed, the teachers in the lower grades informed the children that their enterprising paps and mamas had been imposing on them by making them believe there is a Santa Claus, whereas he is only a mythical creation. The children went home with aching hearts and with tears in their eyes, feeling that Christmas had lost its charm for them. A few were so gloomy and despondent they refused to have anything to do with their presents. The parents arose in their indignation in a body. They went to Supr. Snyder, and after explaining the situation to him, demanded that the "heartless" pedagogues be dismissed. The Superintendent is perplexed as to what to do. The teachers intimate that a strike is not improbable should he dismiss the offenders. On the other hand, if he does not the parents say they will compel the School Board, through public sentiment, to discharge them.

The Case of Hester Curtis. There is the material for a cause celebre in the mystery surrounding the murder of Hester Curtis at Lafayette. The murder, which was discovered Sunday, is thought to have been committed on the Friday or Saturday previous, and the circumstantial evidence thus far unearthed gives absolutely no clew to the murderer save that his motive was evidently robbery. Mrs. Curtis, who was known to be in possession of money derived from the sale of some property, lived in an isolated cottage in an obscure street. Her body, when discovered Sunday, was sitting upright in a chair, the head being beaten in with the blows of some sharp instrument. In the woman's hand was clutched her bank-book opened at the page where her last deposit had been recorded. The theory is that the woman, in trying to prove to the murderer that she had no money with her, was showing her bank-book to him at the time the fatal blow fell. The facts certainly lend color to this view. There was silverware in the cottage, but the murderer, who had evidently ransacked the place, left it untouched. He was looking for money. The most plausible explanation is that the woman and her unwelcome visitor had an angry discussion in which she refused to comply with his demands for her money. Possibly there was also a slight scuffle when the robber started to make a search of the house for himself. As a proof that no money was in her possession she then got out her bank-book and sat down to show its pages to the thief. While doing so the thief, either because he feared further interference with his hunt of the house or because of baffled rage, seized a weapon and killed her. It is in every way a most singular case, and one which may be expected to attract considerable attention. The manner of the murder, the story told by the bank-book, the woman's natural posture, the length of time elapsing between the murder and its discovery, together with the successful flight of the murderer, combine to make it one of those cases which become famous in the annals of an entire neighborhood.

All Over the State. The family of Amos Fry, near Boston, is in a terrible condition as a result of impure vaccination. Mr. Fry determined to vaccinate his four children from virus taken from the arm of the neighbor. The children were taken violently ill and eruptions appeared over their entire bodies. Amos, 17 years of age, was compelled to have her arm amputated, and she probably cannot recover. All the children are suffering from blood poisoning of a severe type and all of them may die. Physicians say that the virus has permeated their entire system and even should they recover they will be physical wrecks.

At Fletcher, a village in Fulton County, the wedding of Arthur Matthews and Miss Gertrude Reed was to have taken place Tuesday evening. A number of guests had been invited and an elaborate wedding feast prepared, but Tuesday morning, when Mr. Reed had procured for the bridesmaids, Mr. Matthews, the father of the groom-to-be, arrived and explained that the ceremony could not be performed because Arthur the night before had, without bidding his relatives good-by, packed his clothing and left home, his destination being unknown. Miss Reed is heartbroken over the affair, and both families denounce the perfidy of Matthews.

W. C. Denny was arrested at Richmond recently by an officer from Manistee, Mich., on a charge of having obtained a loan of \$10,000 from the Manistee national bank by false representations. The transaction took place two years ago, when Denny was cashier of the First National Bank at Little Rock, Ark. He negotiated the loan for his bank on bonds of a Little Rock street railway. The bank and railway company both failed, and it was alleged that Denny had represented them to have been solvent concerns. When Denny was arrested his Richmond friends tendered both sympathy and financial aid, and prominent attorneys at both Manistee and Richmond were employed to look after the case. Word was received from Manistee that the motion to quash the indictment had been granted and the case is at an end. Mr. Denny's attorneys say that a heavy damage suit will be instituted against the Manistee National Bank for unjust arrest.

David Oliver Allen, of Rushville, aged 77, who was sick with grip, grieved so hard when his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Osborne, aged 86, died as to cause heart failure, and he died a few hours after her. The funerals were held together. At Bristow Willie, the 5-year-old son of Thomas McCarral, met with a singular accident which will probably result in his death. The boy went to the pantry in search of a piece of pie and being too small to reach it, fell against the door and closed it. The little fellow was attacked by rats and the physicians fear hydrophobia will result.



THE LATEST STORY BY THE GREAT POLISH NOVELIST, HENRYK SIENKIEWICZ, THAT JEREMIAH CURTIS HAS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH, IS "CHILDREN OF THE SOIL," A TALE OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE IN POLAND.

T. B. Aldrich's forthcoming volume, "Later Lyrics," is to be uniform in its guise with his little volume of "XXXVI Lyrics and XII Sonnets," and is to contain his own selection of songs from his recent larger works.

"The Manhattaners" is the cacophonous but fitting title Edward S. Van Zile has given his latest novel. The story is light, modern, superficial, irreverent, as the construction of such a word as Manhattaner would indicate, and it is also amusing and quite clever.

The new work on Charlotte Bronte, upon which Clement Shorter and Dr. Robertson Nicoll have been at work for some time past, will contain a great many hitherto unpublished letters of Charlotte's, and a great variety of new material secured from her husband, who still lives in Ireland. Mr. Shorter has in his possession all Mrs. Gaskell's correspondence covering the period before she wrote her famous life of Charlotte Bronte.

Zangwill outwardly seems an ungainly man, homely, awkward, and careless in dress, but a more genial companion is rarely to be found. Although Mr. Zangwill's name has been familiar to the literary world for several years, he is only thirty-two. An anecdote now going the rounds of the press, and based on his manner of signing his name—as "I. Zangwill"—relates the discomfiture of a lady who asked him what his Christian name was and received the response: "I have none."

The latest author to complain of piratical publishers digging up and reprinting his early and immature work is Hall Caine. An American house has just unearthed and put on the market a story Mr. Caine wrote hurriedly to fill a gap between serials by Zola and "Ouida" while he was on a Liverpool paper, several years ago, and Mr. Caine feels much aggrieved. He never had the story republished in England, and, indeed, used parts of it in writing his now famous novel, "The Deemster."

Ten years ago James Tissot was noted in Paris as a painter of fleshly nymphs, of a series of pictures depicting the pleasures of life in the capital, and of portraits of men and women in the fashionable world. Suddenly he closed his studio, and announced that he was going to Palestine to illustrate a "Life of Christ." For years he studied the gospels and scriptural history, and thoroughly familiarized himself with life in the Holy Land. He has painted nearly four hundred pictures, and a book is soon to be published containing them all, reproduced in color, and selling at \$300 for the cheapest copy.

FIGHT WITH TWO LIONS.

Hairbreadth Escape from the Clutches of a Hungry Beast.

He saw, above the ledge and a little beyond, the ears and head of a lion, as it sat watching the deer. Jake rose in his saddle to place a bullet, as he said, midway between those ears, when a powerful lion leaped from behind a tree on the ledge of rock above, and, striking him in the chest, carried him off his horse, heading toward the mountain, and his horse ran wildly away. A moment later Jake was lying on his back in the snow, his head up hill, and the beast standing over him with one paw planted firmly on his chest, the other slightly lifted, and wagging its tail in delight, while its hot breath was exhaled into Jake's face.

His first impulse was to hold down his chin tightly, to prevent his throat being torn open, while he cautiously felt for his knife. He found the knife, and as he drew it a slight grating sound caused the lion to rebound at its feet, and as he did so it uttered a scream which Jake knew only gave him the chance of a moment. It was a call for the other lion. Fearing to make a motion of escape or resistance, he moved his hand back in the snow, in search of his rifle, which had been lost in the fall. His finger touched the stock. He cautiously pulled it down by his side, and still looking his captor straight in the eyes slowly turned the rifle till its muzzle faced the lion. The bullet passed through its heart and it sunk on Jake's feet. Before he could move from his helpless position, the other lion bounded over the precipice, and somewhat overlapping its mark lit in the snow, and instantly received a bullet in its brain. The two lions lay dead, not ten feet apart.—Outing.

A Timepiece for the Blind.

A recent invention is a watch for the use of the blind. It is so arranged that by passing the fingers over so lightly over the raised letters of the dial the hands are disturbed. In the middle of each figure is a movable peg. The hour hand would be stopped if the peg remained stationary, but at the touch of the hour hand it drops. To learn what is the hour, the blind man passes his fingers round the circle till he finds the peg that is down. The latter remains down until the next peg drops. In order to find the minutes there is a similar set of pegs on the outer edge of the dial for the minute hand.

An Heiress to the Russian Throne.

A daughter has been born to the Czar of Russia. The baby, who has been named Olga, may one day rule over Russia, the mammoth empire which covers over one-sixth portion of the solid land of the earth. Women rulers are not unusual in Russia, and some of the greatest sovereigns of their time on the Russian throne were women.